

**SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

Senate Bill SJ 6

**Informational Testimony of Greg Ames
Administrator, Montana Department of Agriculture**

MR. CHAIRMAN (JOE BALYEAT) AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Good morning, my name is Greg Ames, Administrator of the Agricultural Sciences Division for the Montana Department of Agriculture. I am here to testify as an informational witness.

Throughout the year, the Montana Department of Agriculture conducts inspections of agricultural commodities bound for Montana and transported by commercial trucks at the Sweetgrass Port of Entry. Sweetgrass is the only port between Canada and Montana where commercial livestock feeds containing animal by-products are allowed to enter Montana. The commodities include agricultural seed, commercial fertilizer, commercial livestock feed, nursery stock and seed potatoes. One of our primary concerns is to inspect and sample commercial livestock feeds to assure label and ingredient compliance in regard to BSE or "mad cow disease." In FY 08, the Department spent over 225 hours monitoring at the Sweetgrass Port of Entry and collected 57 feed samples. To date, no prohibited livestock feed ingredients have been detected during our border sampling efforts. If more products move through the Port of Turner in the future, we would divide our activities between the two ports.